Additional fund under National Nutrition Mission

*19. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted any proposal for release of additional funds under National Nutrition Mission.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to release the above amount to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fixing of royalty on minerals

*20. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some mineral rich States have requested the Central Government for fixing royalty of minerals on *ad valorem* basis;

(b) whether these State Governments have also sought the powers from Central Government to allocate mines of prospective investors;

(c) if so, the complete details in this regard and Government's reaction to the request of State Governments; and

(d) whether Government are considering to formulate a policy document on minerals and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) As per provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), royalty rates can be revised. Enhancement can only be done once in three years. Royalty rates for 39 minerals are already under *ad valorem* basis. Some States have requested for fixing of royalty on ad *valorem* basis. The High Level Committee has also recommended fixing of royalty rates on ad *valorem* basis. The royalty rates were last

revised on 14-10-2004 and therefore any upward revision as per the provisions of the MMDR Act cannot be done before 14-10-2007.

(b) and (c) State Governments are the owner of the minerals and grant mining lease. Prior approval of the Central Government is required only in cases of minerals mentioned in the First Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957.

(d) Based on the recommendations of the High Level Committee, the new Mineral Policy is under consideration of the Government.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Installation of weather forecast stations

1. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to install 200 automatic weather forecast stations in the Eastern India;

(b) if so, the details thereof *inter-alia* indicating those that are proposed to be installed in Orissa; and

(c) whether the action plan will provide comprehensive for casting on frequent intervals to the coastal people to control large-scale destruction in this region?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) As a part of initial limited modernization programme of IMD for up gradation of Observational System, IMD has proposed to install-500 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) all over India. Exact locations are yet to be finalized. Further, as a part of ongoing schemes of the Department, 125 AWS have been procured recently and the same are under installation at various field stations. Out of these 28 AWS are being installed in Eastern and North-Eastern States of India. These include 8 over Orissa namely Mimpara, Rambha, Brahmagiri, Chandipur, Basudevpur, Bongaigarh, Bhubaneshwar and Nawapada.

(c) Yes, Sir. Installation of AWS will strengthen the observational